# READ ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

**March 2003**

Approved by:

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Date: March 25/03

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Date: Mar 31/03

## READ ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK
## Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Read Island Park is to protect the biodiversity associated with being at the transition between the Strait of Georgia Terrestrial and Outer Fiordland ecosections, both of which are underrepresented in the Protected Areas system. Given its location, the park may protect extreme ecotypes of each ecosection. In addition, the park contains a significant amount of shoreline and the elevational range of Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) xm1 and xm2, thus increasing its contribution to the protection of biodiversity.

The park encompasses a high proportion of large old growth forest, a bog, fertile lowland, bedrock granite outcrops, and productive second growth forest and part of Rosen Lake. It protects a diversity of wildlife habitats and healthy wildlife populations. The park contains prime habitat for marbled murrelets and a high density of bald eagles. Weasel, mink, river otter, and beaver are found in the park which also helps support healthy deer, wolf, and cougar populations in the area. The park is high priority for conservation as it protects an extensive intact unaltered landscape and associated vegetation.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, freshwater and ocean swimming, kayaking/canoeing, beachcombing, and nature appreciation. While many activities take place at Rosen Lake, only the south portion is within the park. Although not of major significance, the park contributes to the recreational opportunities of local and regional residents and to the boaters exploring the Inside Passage. There are no developed facilities in the park, but the bays provide good anchorages allowing visitors to enjoy all marine activities.

### Management Issues

| Known Management Issue | Response |
|---|---|
| Lack of detailed knowledge of natural and cultural values | ➢ Encourage research in the park and gather inventory data/reports for the park.<br>➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations. |
| Impacts of adjacent uses such as subdivisions, logging and aquaculture | ➢ Work with adjacent land owners, DFO and regional district to address issues that may affect park values.<br>➢ Review forest development plans of areas near the park boundary to ensure the activities do not impact the park.<br>➢ Install boundary signage. |
| Lack of foreshore | ➢ Pursue the acquisition of foreshore to protect and control sheltered anchorages |
| Road access and access to private properties around the lake (logging grade) | ➢ Review road access into the park and extent of hiking trails. |
| Non-conforming uses (Untenured shellfish and finfish activity) and trespasses (houses) | ➢ Monitor fish farm activities and ensure appropriate permitting is in place. |
| First Nation relations | ➢ Pursue a Traditional Use Study and continue to develop good working relationships with all appropriate First Nations.. |

## Zoning

**Natural Environment Zone** – covers the entire park to reflect the conservation and recreation values (637 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

## Conservation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation<br>- ecosection | ☒ | Read Island Park is the third largest contributor with 13.3% out of 22 protected areas to the overall representation of the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection (SOG), which is under represented in the protected areas system at 5.4%. South Texada Island Park is the largest contributor with 27.1%.<br>It also contributes minimally (0.8%) to representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which has only 3.3% of its area protected. |
| - biogeoclimatic subzone/variant | ☒ | Read Island Park is the sixth largest contributor (with 5.2%) out of 51 protected areas to the overall representation of CWHxm1, which has only 2.1% protected provincially. Desolation Sound Marine Park is the largest contributor with 28.5%.<br>It also makes a minimal contribution of 0.8% to the representation of CWHxm2, which has only 4.1% of its area protected. |
| Special Features | ☒ | Old growth forests, eagle nesting trees |
| Rare/Endangered Values | ☒ | Red-listed marbled murrelet |
| Scientific/Research Opportunities | ☒ | Increasing the knowledge of natural values |

## Recreation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation | | |
| backcountry | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| destination | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| travel corridor | ☒ | Boaters exploring the Inside Passage |
| local recreation | ☒ | Local and regional attractions |
| Special Opportunities | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Education/Interpretation Opportunities | ☐ | None known at this time |

## Cultural Heritage

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation | ☐ | Values unknown |
| Special Feature | ☐ | None known at this time |

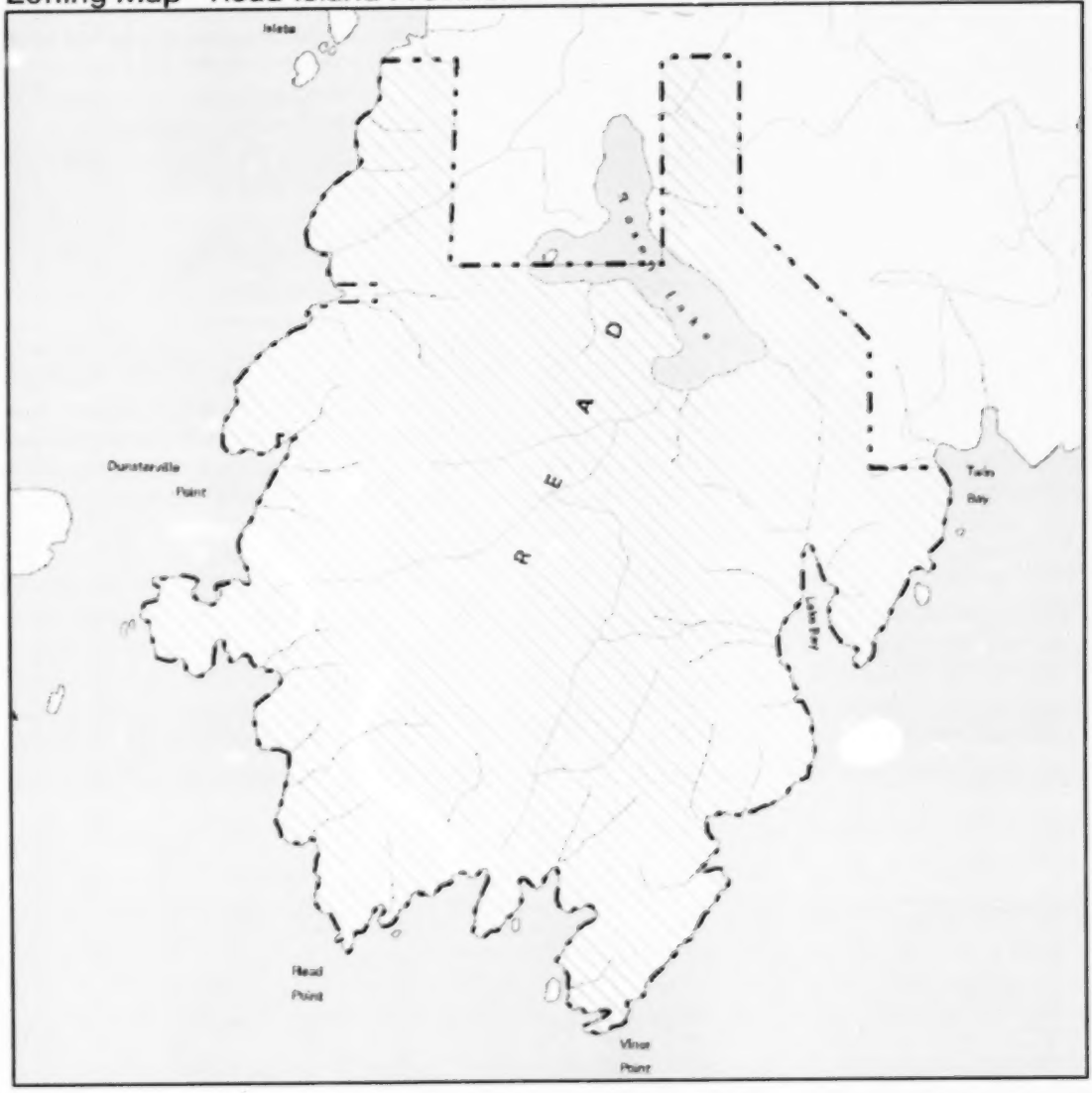
## Other Management Considerations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Other Designations | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Relationship to other PAs | ☒ | Part of a system of protected areas in the Inside Passage; Marine Trail |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Partnerships | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Vulnerability | ☒ | Vulnerable to recreational use, adjacent subdivisions and aquaculture. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | ☒ | Designated as a result of recommendations in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process. Marine Protected Areas Strategy |

**Area**: 637 hectares

**Date of establishment**: April 30, 1996

## Zoning Map - Read Island Provincial Park




Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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